

**From:** Kenneth McGarvey  
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If the certain far eastern countries computer industry had succeeded in their attempts at setting the standard in not only computer language/software and also the computers themselves, in the mid 1980s, then the price we all would have to pay for computers and the ancillary equipment would be much higher. Also the effects on the U.S.A. balance of payments would have been catastrophic. I am speaking with no particular interest to pursue, in that I am a British subject and as such am speaking out for what I believe is the benefit of most of the computer using public. If the proposed break up of Microsoft goes ahead, it will mean higher charges for all of us that use computers, it is only because of the scale of the Microsoft operation that prices can be held so low and that the company can offer what is genuine free software. Microsoft are not a monopoly and in fact there are many other competing software companies in the market place all offering varying products compatible to and some times superior to Microsoft's. What few in the courts realize is in the mid 1980s around six or seven of the far eastern electronic companies banded together to try and formulate a standard system that as stated above, would then have dominated the whole of the worlds computer industry. If they had succeeded then IBM, Apple, Sun Systems, Java and all the other great US and none Pacific Rim computer makers and software houses would not be in existence today, or if they where they would be mere fractions of the companies they are. So please think on these points when making your decision on the future of Microsoft. I state once again that it is only by being good at what they do, added to the scale of their enterprise, that enables Microsoft to offer reasonable products at prices the general public can afford. We would all be a lot less comfortable in technical terms if Microsoft had not gained an early lead in computer technology. Again I ask you to bear in mind the fact that Microsoft has earned Billions of dollars for you country, do not kill the hen that has laid the golden eggs for yourselves if you do you risk the threat of all previous great civilizations. Think of the Greeks, Romans and even ancient Egyptians do not kill what is good not always right but am sure Microsoft does attempt to get it right most times. So should your legislature and rule for the keeping of Microsoft intact as it is. And long my it go from strength to strength.  
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